

WORKERS OF ALL COUNTRIES, UNITE!

FORTNIGHTLY BULLETIN
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COMMUNIST PARTY OF TURKEY

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STATEMENT

The process of relaxation of tensions is advancing as a result of the ardent Leninist peace policy pursued by the Soviet Union. The reaching of the signing stage in the SALT-2 agreement is an important step forward in this respect. On the other hand, imperialism and the ruling circles in NATO are maintaining tensions and escalating the arms race.

The pressures of American imperialism and NATO on our region and Turkey are intensifying just at this time, following the anti-imperialist developments in Iran. These pressures go hand in hand with outbursts and provocations on the part of the collaborating monopoly bourgeoisie and the reactionary fascist press inside the country. This two-pronged attack sabotages peace and security in our region and fans the fascist escalation in our country. The government's policy of bowing to imperialism, giving concessions to NATO and compromising with reaction, together with the martial law imposed against the working class, progressive forces, against all our people, provides an opening for this great danger.

As the government persists in its pro-NATO stance and makes our national independence a subject of bargaining with the imperialists, the reactionary-fascist forces within the country are becoming more aggressive, while the imperialist impositions from without are becoming ever more crude. America quite openly imposes itself on Çankaya: It demands over-flying rights for U-2 espionage planes. It demands new bases of aggression. It demands the curtailment of our good relations with our neighbours, the socialist countries. It demands that the 'Political Document' recently signed with the Soviet Union be thrown into a deep well. It wants to turn our country against the Arab peoples. It wishes to put together a new bloc of aggression to replace the collapsed CENTO and to draw Turkey into this bloc.

In the face of such a danger, the TKP is warning our people, all national democratic forces, and calling for unity in the struggle: No place for American imperialists in our skies, on our seas or on our land! Our people will not permit the flying of espionage planes in our skies nor the establishing on our land of bases for these flights directed against the bulwark of world peace, our great neighbour the Soviet Union. The government must implement the Political Document that it signed with the Soviet Union. The enslaving bilateral agreements with the American imperialists, agreements which trample national honour cruelly underfoot must be torn up. The NATO and American bases must be dismantled and driven out of our land. Turkey must withdraw from NATO. The working class, our people shouted these demands only yesterday, on May Day, in front of NATO headquarters in İzmir in the face of imperialism.

The TKP is marching and will continue to march in the forefront of the struggle for the realisation of this anti-imperialist oath of our people.

The TKP calls the Workers' Party of Turkey (TIP), the Socialist Workers' Party of Turkey (TSİP), socialist parties, members of the Republican People's Party, Kurdish democrats and all patriots to unity of action in this struggle.

21 May 1979

Central Committee,
Communist Party of Turkey

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY

Esteemed Comrades,

The Central Committee of the TKP greets with revolutionary feelings the 9th Congress of the Portuguese Communist Party on behalf of all communists and the working class of Turkey.

The Portuguese Communist Party is marching in the foremost ranks of the struggle of the working class, peasants and all working people against the domestic and foreign monopolies. It is waging a persistent struggle against reactionary attacks to defend and further extend the gains of the 25 April revolution. In this struggle, it is working for the unity of action of all progressive, democratic forces.

Adhering firmly to Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, the Portuguese Communist Party is defending the unity of the world communist movement. It is fighting with all its strength against anti-communism and anti-Sovietism. The fraternal ties between the TKP and the PCP are based on these principles. The TKP, the working class of Turkey, see the solidarity of the PCP, the Portuguese working class in their struggle against imperialism and the fascist danger. They gather strength from this solidarity.

Esteemed Comrades,

We wish success to the 9th Congress of the Portuguese Communist Party and to your struggles thereafter.

Long live proletarian internationalism!

Long live the Portuguese Communist Party!

30 May 1979

I. Bilen,
General Secretary,
Central Committee,
Communist Party of Turkey.

THE MAY DAY DETAINEES ARE RELEASED

This year the working class and working people of Turkey celebrated May Day, the day of struggle, unity and solidarity of the world

proletariat under conditions of mounting repression and terror. Many workers, trade unionists, working people and intellectuals were taken under surveillance prior to and on May Day itself. Martial law authorities issued warrants for their arrest and began prosecutions.

Thus, the hearing of Behice Boran, chairman of the Workers' Party of Turkey, and 331 TİP members took place on the 19th of May, resulting in sentences of 25 days imprisonment for all. The chairman of the Confederation of Revolutionary Trade Unions (DİSK), Abdullah Baştürk, and 7 DİSK leaders, on trial at the İstanbul martial law military court, were released.

The release of TİP and DİSK leaders is a success for the democratic forces. As is known, the TKP and progressive, democratic forces and organisations waged a campaign for the release of all May Day detainees. This campaign also evoked a wide response in international democratic public opinion. Thus the importance and necessity of solidarity in the class struggle was displayed once again.

The struggle for the release of May Day detainees, for an end to repression of progressive associations and organisations has not ended. The campaign for the release of all May Day detainees is continuing. It is the foremost duty of all progressive, patriotic, democratic forces and organisations to take an active part in this campaign, to extend it further and to bolster solidarity. As is known, Aytaç Eryılmaz of Temel Publications, which published the May Day pamphlet, is still in detention. He was arrested for making 'communist' propaganda in the pamphlet. The military court refused his application for release. The charges against the Temel Publication's official are based on the fascist article 142. The trials of those arrested or taken under surveillance in connection with May Day are still continuing.

Repressive measures against those who took part in the May Day demonstration and organisations which distributed statements related to May Day are also continuing. For example, the Sincalı branch of TOB-DER (Teachers' Association), was closed for its statements related to May Day. The headquarters and all branches of the Progressive Women's Organisation (İKD) were closed prior to May Day.

The TKP Programme trial

On 18 May there was a new hearing in the trial of Ahmet Taştan, managing editor of "Ürün" Publishers. Ahmet Taştan is being tried under the fascist articles 141 and 142 of the penal code, for legally publishing the TKP Programme. On 18 May, the trial was postponed. The owner of 'Günce' Publishers which published Lenin's book "On Imperialist War" has also been brought to trial in the Martial Law Court under fascist article 142. His lawyers asserted that this fascist article contravenes the constitution and requested that the court apply to the Constitutional Court for its repeal.

ONE MONTH'S ACCOUNT OF FASCIST ATTACKS AND ANTI-DEMOCRATIC REPRESSIONS

115 people were killed, over 300 wounded – 60 of them seriously – in the course of 300 attacks in the month of May. In April, the number of people killed in bloody attacks was 89. The great majority of victims are workers and progressive students. The cities where attacks are most intensive are: İstanbul, Ankara, Gaziantep, Malatya, Adana, Manisa, Urfa and Seydişehir.

The most barbaric and most publicised of the bloody attacks in May was the raid by fascists on a cafe in Ankara and the indiscriminate shooting of people who had been ordered to lie down on the floor. 7 people were killed and 8 wounded in this slaughter. Afterwards, the fascists organised similar raids and attacks at cafes in many cities throughout the country.

Repression and attacks against the trade unions

Attacks against the Metal Workers' Union (Maden-İş), have intensified. In Seydişehir, activists of the fascist trade union MİSK (The Nationalist Trade Union Confederation) attacked members of the Metal Workers' Union, wounding 23 workers. The attackers then unleashed a reign of terror in the town. They attacked and destroyed the offices of DISK (Confederation of Revolutionary Trade Unions), the Community Centre, the TOB-DER (Teachers' Association), as well as the Republican People's Party building and the homes of people known as democrats and progressives. The local administrator of Seydişehir said that this was an uprising of reaction and that the damages caused were huge.

In May, the printing works of the General Workers' trade union (Genel-İş), affiliated to DISK, were closed down. The president of the Textile Workers' Union, İstanbul branch was attacked by fascists.

Attacks against the progressive youth

Attacks against the progressive youth movement and the Progressive Youth Organisation (İGD) increased further in May. The fascists have killed and wounded many young people by opening fire at places where progressive youth gather. Some of these attacks took place in the Ortaköy and Küçükçekmece districts of İstanbul where fire was opened on students' cafes and at young people waiting at a quay to go on a picnic. Three young people who took part in an İstanbul march for the release of May Day detainees were put under surveillance.

Fascists opened fire on students in İstanbul who gathered together to go on a picnic. Eight students were wounded, one of them seriously. Fascists opened fire on a cafe in İstanbul frequented by progressives. Ersen Demirel, a member of the Progressive High School Students' Organisation (İİLD) was killed, and many İGD members were wounded. An explosive was thrown into

another cafe in İstanbul frequented by progressive students. Five students were wounded, one of them critically. One of the female students lost an eye. Afterwards, 300 students who took part in a demonstration to protest the attack were placed under surveillance.

Alongside fascist commandos, Maoists and some leftist groups also took part in the bloody attacks. Their attacks against progressive youth have been particularly concentrated in İzmir. In that city, Maoists from the "Peoples' Liberation" organisation attacked İGD members with guns. 1000 students were involved in the clash. Eleven students were wounded, four of them seriously. 418 students were put under surveillance. In the course of a police search of the Peoples' Liberation group, many Maoists were found to be armed. Again in İzmir, 5 people were wounded as a result of an attack by the leftist Liberation group supporters against İGD members. A worker member of the İGD was wounded as a result of another attack by fascists in İzmir.

In Van, the İGD branch chairman was put under surveillance on the pretext of an explosion in the city. In Ankara, 4 students, members of the İGD, were sentenced to one year imprisonment for publishing an anti-government statement during the reactionary-fascist Nationalist Front government.

Attacks and repression against the progressive women's movement

After the closure of the head office of the Progressive Womens' Organisation (İKD) just before May Day, the activities of its branches were obstructed. In Trabzon, the Post Office refused to accept the telegrams of many women who wanted to send protests against the closure of the head office of the İKD to the prime minister. The İKD members said that this action contravened freedom of communication.

Attacks and repression directed against teachers

In Elazığ, a teacher member of the Teachers' Association TOB-DER was murdered. The TOB-DER headquarters in Ankara were searched. A TOB-DER member in Manisa was seriously wounded. In İstanbul the director of a high school was murdered. In İstanbul and Tarsus, two TOB-DER teachers were killed. Another TOB-DER teacher was killed in İstanbul. In Urfa a TOB-DER teacher was seriously wounded by fascists. Referring to increasing attacks against teachers, high school directors in Istanbul declared that there is no security of life. They said that unless teachers' lives are safeguarded, they will not perform their duties. They requested permission to carry weapons for self-defence.

Attacks and repression against other organisations and individuals.

A Dev-Genç (Revolutionary Youth) member sitting in a cafe in Ankara was killed by fascists. A university assistant was beaten by police in İstanbul.

The incident was protested by TUMAS (University Assistants' Organisation) and TÜMOD (University Lecturer's Association). People returning from May Day celebrations were attacked and fired upon in Rize and Artvin. An explosive was thrown into the community centre in Antalya. In Manisa, fascist terrorists attacked the Koy-Koop (Peasants Cooperative). The İzmir branch of the Mechanical Engineers' Association, affiliated to the Confederation of Engineers and Architects, issued a statement stating that fascists had attacked one of their members in Manisa, and that one member in İzmir had been attacked by Maoists, another by fascists.

Attacks and repression against socialist parties

The Workers' Party of Turkey (TİP) Chairman and her friends who ventured out onto the street on May Day were hit by truncheons by the police. Officers who gave evidence during the trial of Behice Boran and 331 TİP members corroborated this. In Rize, fascists stoned the TİP provincial office. In Nazilli, the TSİP (Socialist Workers' Party) provincial office was attacked. One person was wounded. A TİP member was wounded in İstanbul by a member of a Maoist terrorist group.

Attacks and repression directed against RPP supporters.

A member of the Republican Peoples' Party (RPP) was killed at his home by fascists in İstanbul. RPP supporters who were taken to a police station in a district of İstanbul were beaten by police. A member of the İstanbul City Council was attacked and severely wounded. A student member of the RPP was wounded in İstanbul. A club in Bursa frequented by RPP supporters was riddled with bullets. Five people were wounded, one of them severely. In Erzurum, an RPP supporter was killed by fascists. The Rize RPP branch office was stoned. In Manisa, fascists attacked the business premises of RPP members. In Balıkesir, the RPP Youth Movement provincial chairman was attacked by fascists and critically wounded.

Repression against the progressive, democratic press

In a statement issued in İstanbul, Temel Publications condemned repressive measures taken against its retail stores. According to the statement, the Adana branch of Temel Publications was searched. The İzmit branch was closed down. The person in charge of the İzmit branch was put under surveillance and arrested. Two journalists on May Day duty in Ankara were knocked about by security forces. A teacher who was reading Cumhuriyet was beaten in İstanbul. Also in İstanbul, another group reading Cumhuriyet was sprayed by gunfire and then beaten.

